

Whitefin Chimaera, *Chimaera argiloba*

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| Report Card assessment | Sustainable | | |
| IUCN Red List Australian Assessment | Endemic to Australia | IUCN Red List Global Assessment | Least Concern |
| Global Assessors | Theiss, S.M., Huvneers, C. & Ebert, D.A. | | |
| Australian Assessors | Refer to Global Assessors | | |
| Report Card Remarks | Fishing pressure low and significant refuge across its range. | | |

Summary

The Whitefin Chimaera is a medium-sized and abundant deepwater chimaerid endemic to Western Australia in tropical to subtropical waters. It may be caught in the Commonwealth Northwest Slope Trawl Fishery and Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery and likely released as it is of little commercial value; post-release mortality is unknown. However, both fisheries have limited effort and the species would receive significant refuge at depth as occurs beyond the maximum depth fished. Chondrichthyans have been assessed as at low risk in these fisheries. The species would also receive refuge in the Commonwealth North-west Marine Parks Network. Overall, fishing effort is very low across its range where there is also significant spatial and depth refuge. Therefore, the Whitefin Chimaera is assessed as Least Concern (IUCN) and Sustainable (SAFS).



Distribution

The Whitefin Chimaera is endemic to tropical and subtropical waters of Western Australia where it occurs in a wide range from Rowley Shoals to Geraldton (Theiss et al. 2018).

Stock structure and status

There is currently no information on population size, structure or trend for the species; however, it is abundant throughout its range (Last and Stevens 2009).

Fisheries

The Whitefin Chimaera may be caught incidentally by deepwater trawl fisheries. That is, in the Commonwealth Northwest Slope Trawl Fishery (targets prawns and scampi at 200–600 m depths) and the Western Deepwater Trawl Fishery (targets finfish and bugs (*Ibacus* spp.) at 200–700 m depths) (Patterson et al. 2022). As it is of little commercial value, the Whitefin Chimaera is likely discarded and there is no information on post-release mortality. However, both fisheries have limited effort with

only 1–6 active vessels and the species would receive significant refuge at depth as it occurs deeper than the current maximum depths fished (Patterson et al. 2022). Chondrichthyans have been assessed as at low risk in these fisheries (Zhou et al. 2009). It would also receive refuge in the Commonwealth North-west Marine Parks Network that came into effect in 2018 which include zoning and gear restrictions (Parks Australia 2023).

Habitat and biology

The Whitefin Chimaera is benthopelagic on the continental slope at depths of 370–520 m (Last et al. 2008). Maximum size is at least 78 cm pre-caudal filament length (PCFL), 91 cm total length (TL) and 40 cm body length (BDL) (Last et al. 2008, Theiss et al. 2018, Kyne et al. 2021). A late adolescent male was 90 cm TL (Last et al. 2008). Nothing else is known of its biology.

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| Longevity and maximum size | Longevity: unknown Max size: 78 cm PCFL, 90 cm TL, 40 cm BDL |
| Age and/or size at maturity (50%) | Both sexes: unknown |

CAAB Code: 37 042009

Link to IUCN Page: <https://www.iucnredlist.org/species/195427/68616928>

Link to page at Shark References: <https://shark-references.com/species/view/Chimaera-argiloba>

References

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- Theiss, S.M., Huveneers, C. and Ebert, D.A. 2015. *Chimaera argiloba*. *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species* 2015: e.T195427A68616928.
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